



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
Office of the Speaker

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## 24th Navajo Nation Council honors the life of former Arizona Senator James Henderson, Jr.

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**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Today, the 24th Navajo Nation Council honors the life of former Arizona Senator James Henderson, Jr., who passed on Friday in Gallup, New Mexico.

“It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of an amazing father, grandfather, husband, and leader who advocated for his constituents on a state and federal level,” said Hon. Speaker Otto Tso. “During his career as an elected official, Honorable Senator James Henderson, Jr. made it his priority to be the voice of our children, elders, and families across the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona.”

Senator Henderson was born on May 15, 1942 in Ganado, Arizona. He then graduated from Riverside Indian School located in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Before serving as an elected official, Sen. Henderson was drafted to the U.S Army in 1966 where he served in the Vietnam War from until 1968.

Due to being wounded during the war, Sen. Henderson was honorably discharged and was awarded the Purple Heart medal.

Upon returning, he attended Utah State University where he graduated from. Afterwards, he worked for the Arizona Department of Economic Security as an Employment Counselor. Later in his early career, Sen. Henderson worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a manager for seven (7) years. Along with serving as the Navajo Nation Director of Range Management and was Former Director of Tribal Legislative Affairs.

In 1985, James was sworn into the Arizona State Senate representing District 3 and served until 1999. Additionally, he served as National Commander of the Navajo Nation Veterans Organization. Senator Henderson spent his years advocating on behalf of Veterans, Elders and Youth.

He is survived by his wife Elaine Henderson, sister Marcella Hubbard, his daughters, Dr. Sharon Henderson, Valerie Henderson, Karlene Henderson, Valencia Henderson, Clarissa Henderson-Smith, Jamesina Henderson, and Adrienne Moya, sons; Toby Henderson, Alton Henderson, Jaime Henderson and Marcus Henderson, Jeffrey Moya, and Daniel Moya, 46 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, James and Phoebe Henderson, siblings Milton Henderson, Ruth Ann Henderson and Melinda Henderson.

For donations, please contact Dr. Sharon Henderson at (480) 492-6559.

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